



**VA Central Western Massachusetts
Postdoctoral Residency in Clinical Neuropsychology
2021-2023**

VA Central Western Massachusetts is recruiting for one (1) position in its two-year postdoctoral residency in clinical neuropsychology. The program adheres to a scientist-practitioner model and to the guidelines set forth by the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology. Training is specifically designed to ensure eligibility for specialty board certification in clinical neuropsychology at the end of the program. This residency position will primarily be housed at the Worcester Lake Avenue clinic in Worcester, Massachusetts, the second-largest city in New England. Training experiences will take place at both the Worcester and Leeds campuses. The Neuropsychology Resident will engage in clinical, didactic, and research activities.

Clinical Training:

General Neuropsychology Service: The resident will obtain broad training experiences evaluating outpatient Veterans across the age spectrum. Consult questions are varied but most often include differential diagnosis of dementia, assessment of civil capacities, and evaluations of head injury, neuropsychiatric disorders, substance/alcohol abuse, and medical/neurological disorders. Reports center on recommendations to improve day-to-day functioning and identification of appropriate consultation/treatment services. In addition to our face-to-face evaluations in normal circumstances, during the pandemic we have all been performing a mix of virtual (video) evaluations and evaluations conducted mostly over office-to-office video connections, and telehealth will likely remain a component of our normal operations going forward.

Inpatient Neuropsychology Clinic: The Edward P. Boland VAMC houses several inpatient units. Referrals to neuropsychology come from the acute psychiatry, sub-acute psychiatry, specialized inpatient PTSD, and nursing care units. Referrals include complex questions involving intersections between neurological and

psychiatric conditions (e.g., TBI, PTSD, dementias, substance use, ADHD, serious mental illness), capacity evaluations, and discharge treatment planning.

Polytrauma/TBI Clinic: The Polytrauma/Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Clinic is a multidisciplinary team clinic. This team specializes in the evaluation and treatment of returning OEF/OIF/OND veterans with suspected traumatic brain injuries, and typically comorbid PTSD. The Neuropsychology Resident performs neuropsychological evaluations of Veterans in this clinic, helps to guide treatment planning, and actively participates in team meetings.

Psychological Intervention: The resident participates in a minor rotation (4 hours/week) in Health Psychology during year 1, and in Behavioral Sleep Medicine during year 2.

Supervision: Advanced residents will gain experience providing direct supervision to the neuropsychology practicum student. This will entail direct training on the assessment, scoring, interpretation, and report-writing components of neuropsychological evaluations. Support for this experience will be provided via a "supervision of supervision" group with the on-site neuropsychology faculty.

In the second year, residents are allotted increased independence and work together with their supervisors to arrange a training plan based on individualized training needs, while maintaining engagement in direct clinical, didactic, and research activities on a weekly basis.

Didactics:

Our didactic seminars include two weekly neuropsychology seminars:

- (1) The Worcester Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Seminar is operated in conjunction with the training program at the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Medical School. This is a lecture-format series that is operated by faculty from the VA, UMass, and the local community of neuropsychologists and allied health professionals.
- (2) The Multi-site VTC Clinical Neuropsychology Fellowship Training Didactic is a two-hour, two-year-long course conducted via video conference with other VA residency programs. The first hour of each seminar is devoted to case presentations and fact-finding case conferences, and the second hour consists of a lecture-format

presentation of an assigned topic relevant to VA residents and neuropsychology residents in general.

We also hold two monthly journal clubs: a Neuropsychology Classics journal club, and a Worcester psychology journal club that is open to all clinic staff and trainees.

Didactic training also includes off-site brain cuttings to provide trainees with exposure to neuroanatomy and histopathology. Trainees have the additional opportunity to attend Grand Rounds at UMass and at Baystate Medical Center, and we distribute alerts about virtual didactic workshops and seminars and encourage attendance at these.

Research:

Neuropsychology residents are allotted up to 20% time (1 day per week) to engage in a wide range of research activities. Research projects with VA investigators are available within our service and via the New England Mental Illness Research, Education, & Clinical Center (MIRECC). Research project collaborations with colleagues at other local institutions are encouraged as well. Research activities are expected to yield conference presentations and/or manuscripts submitted to professional journals.

Facilities:

The VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System provides primary, specialty, and mental health care to a population of more than 120,000 Veterans in central and western Massachusetts. The System includes the Northampton VA Medical Center, a 5-star facility with many inpatient and outpatient services, as well as five community-based outpatient clinics in Worcester, Springfield, Fitchburg, Greenfield, and Pittsfield. VA CWM has an academic affiliation and partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Neuropsychology Residency Training Staff:

Lee Ashendorf, Ph.D., ABPP-CN is the Director of Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Training. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University at Albany, State University of New York, in 2005, and he completed a predoctoral internship in neuropsychology at VA Connecticut Healthcare System (West Haven). He also completed a 2-year neuropsychology postdoctoral

residency at the VA in Bedford (Massachusetts). He worked briefly for a private group practice before returning to the Bedford VA as a staff neuropsychologist. He has been with VA Central Western Massachusetts at the Worcester Lake Avenue Clinic since 2016. Dr. Ashendorf was a mentee of Edith Kaplan, adheres to the Boston Process Approach, and was the lead editor of the book, *The Boston Process Approach to Neuropsychological Assessment*. He has held several leadership positions in local and national neuropsychology organizations. He has also held editorial roles with several professional journals and is currently an Associate Editor of *Developmental Neuropsychology*. He has over 30 publications and conducts research that mostly focuses on psychometric and validity topics in neuropsychological evaluation.

Bradley Brummett, Ph.D. is a neuropsychologist, Co-Director of Internship Training, and Coordinator of the Edward P. Boland VAMC Neuropsychology Service. He completed his clinical psychology Ph.D. in 2007 at Fordham University in Bronx, New York, with training in neuropsychology, substance abuse treatment, multicultural issues, and Schema Therapy. While completing his degree, he spent a year providing counseling services at a methadone clinic in the heart of San Francisco, and he lived overseas. Dr. Brummett completed a 2-year, clinical neuropsychology postdoc and was employed as a staff neuropsychologist at Kaiser Foundation Rehabilitation Center before moving back East to Massachusetts. He worked at VA Boston Healthcare System as a neuropsychologist and as a research scientist with the Translational Research Center for Traumatic Brain Injury and Stress Disorders (TRACTS). Dr. Brummett serves as a site-PI for two funded studies: one examining remote benefits counseling and another involving motivational interviewing approaches to pain management. He is actively involved with professional organizations such as the Massachusetts Psychological Association (member of the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs, former Director At Large).

Teresa Malinofsky, Ph.D. is a neuropsychologist and Compensation & Pension psychologist. Dr. Malinofsky earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Cincinnati in 1991. She interned at Cambridge Hospital (now Cambridge Health Alliance) in clinical psychology and obtained postdoctoral-level training and work experience in neuropsychology for a few years at Harvard-affiliated hospitals, including Massachusetts General Hospital. Her training and this early experience in neuropsychology was with geriatric and psychiatric populations. Then in Western Massachusetts, she first worked at the Weldon Center for Rehabilitation, Mercy Hospital, where she was Director of Neuropsychology and Chief Psychologist for the Inpatient Brain Injury Unit. At

the same time, she co-edited a book, *The Psychotherapist's Guide to Neuropsychiatry: Diagnostic and Treatment Issues* (1994), along with co-editors James Ellison, MD, and Cheryl Weinstein, PhD. She later became a consultant for the Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP/Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission), and eventually started her private practice in neuropsychology and also taught at the Antioch New England Graduate School, and then worked as a part-time neuropsychology consultant to the Geropsychiatry team at Baystate Franklin Medical Center. Now at the Edward P. Boland VAMC, Dr. Malinofsky does neuropsychological assessments, some psychotherapy, and a weekly C&P exam, and serves as Assessment rotation supervisor and Case Conference facilitator for the internship program. She has developed a new interest in dissociation, a not-uncommon symptom of PTSD.

Jeffrey McCarthy, Psy.D. is a neuropsychologist and the Program Manager for Outpatient Mental Health Services provided at the five Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) of VACWM. He also provides clinical services in the Mental Health Clinic at the Springfield CBOC including individual and group psychotherapy, as well as psychological and neuropsychological assessment services. He previously worked as the psychologist on the TBI/Polytrauma team, and has provided numerous lectures in a number of venues in the local area on the subject matter. He received his doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology in 2004 from the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, while also completing a specialty in Neuropsychological Assessment. He completed his internship training at the VACWM, and a portion of his postdoctoral training in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Fellowship program at the West Haven VAMC. He then worked for almost two years at Neuro-Psychology Associates of Western Massachusetts evaluating and treating patients with various neurological conditions, including traumatic head injuries, progressive dementing disorders, and neurobehavioral disorders, before returning to VACWM.

Sarah Ward, Ph.D., ABPP-CN, is a board-certified neuropsychologist and Compensation & Pension psychologist. She is a supervisor for the neuropsychology resident at the Worcester Lake Avenue Clinic. She earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus), where she trained in neuropsychology and psychological assessment (including training at the Minneapolis VAHCS), and her research examined the genetic and environmental contributions to the development of psychopathology. She completed a pre-doctoral internship in clinical neuropsychology and serious mental illness at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. She completed her two year post-

doctoral neuropsychology fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School. She has been with the VA Central Western Massachusetts at the Worcester Lake Avenue Clinic since 2016. She divides her time between neuropsychological assessment and compensation and pension evaluations (psychiatric disability evaluations for Veterans seeking benefits through the VA). She also completes neuropsychological evaluations at a private practice in Cambridge, MA.

Stipend:

The residency currently has a stipend of \$50,941 for year 1 and \$53,695 for year 2, plus benefits.

Start Date: September 7, 2021

How to Apply:

To be eligible for this residency position, applicants must:

- (1) Be US citizens;
- (2) Be graduates of APA-accredited programs in clinical psychology or neuropsychology (CPA accreditation is not recognized by the VA);
- (3) Have completed dissertation *prior to* the start of residency (September 2021);
- (4) Have completed an APA-approved predoctoral internship (brand-new not-yet-accredited programs are exempt from this requirement).

Applications should include (preferably as separate document files):

- Cover letter of intent
- CV
- Two (2) de-identified sample reports
- Graduate school transcript (scanned unofficial copies are fine)
- Three (3) letters of recommendation *sent directly by the letter-writers*

Interested candidates should send application materials by e-mail to Lee.Ashendorf@va.gov.

The deadline for application is **November 30, 2020**. Interviews will all be conducted **virtually** in December, and we intend for selection to be completed in January. Please note that we are *not* participants in the APPCN postdoc match.